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Intelligence panel consi a new probe of Monda

Ex-Carter official tied to loss of spy i

Political interference cited in 1980 inquiry

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NEW YORK TRIBUNE STAFF

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WASHINGTON — The Senate Intelligence Committee recently weighed a congressional request to reopen its ultra-sensitive 1980 probe of Walter Mondale's top foreign policy adviser.

The committee denied the request despite charges that the investigation was obstructed by political tampering and unwillingness to air explosive, top-secret information, according to intelligence sources and congressional documents made available to the *New York Tribune*.

The investigation 4 years ago reportedly cleared the Mondale aide, David Aaron, of charges he revealed information that led to the loss of a deep-cover American spy working in the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

At the time, Aaron was President Carter's deputy national security adviser. He is currently a close adviser on foreign affairs to the Democratic presidential nominee.

David Aaron, left, was investigated by the Senate Intelligence Committee, chaired by Sen. Barry Goldwater, after the loss of a key CIA agent in Moscow. UPI

Aaron, in a telephone interview, would not comment on the allegation. He confirmed that there was an "extensive investigation," but he denied that it was "an investigation of me." He referred questions to the office of Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"He's the man who made the decision," Aaron said of the committee's recent determination not to reopen the 1980 probe. Goldwater could not be reached for comment.

A spokesman for the Mondale-Ferraro campaign refused to comment on the report. Aaron, who has been described as Mondale's most important foreign policy adviser, earlier served as his staff assistant on the Senate Intelligence Committee when it was headed by the late Sen. Frank Church. He recently returned from Israel where, according to a report in the *New York Times*, Aaron attempted to improve both Mondale's and his own relations with the Israelis.

In October 1983, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence was first asked to provide records of the Aaron investigation by the House Post Office and Civil Service subcommittee on human resources. A letter from subcommittee Chairman Don Albosta, D-Mich., and the subcommittee's minority leader Dan Crane, R-Ill., requested records "relating to the possible compromise of highly classified information" involving "high-level personnel of the National Security Council at that time [1980]."

Report on leaks

In May, the subcommittee released its report on unauthorized disclosures during the 1980 election, specifically covering the transfer of former president Jimmy Carter's debate notes to the Reagan campaign. The leaks were traced to Carter's National Security Council (NSC).

According to congressional sources close to the investigation, "numerous allegations" of Carter NSC leaks during the subcommittee probe were ignored. The subcommittee's final report was described as "highly partisan" and incomplete. The report mentioned Aaron as the person responsible for preparing the foreign policy section of the purloined Carter briefing book.

A House staff member who pursued the NSC leaks on behalf of Crane was told by Intelligence Committee staff director Rob Simmons last June 22 that committee records were "too extensive to permit perusal by outsiders," including investigators with top-level security clearances. Simmons did not see the subcommittee's October request from Albosta and Crane, sources said.

Intelligence Committee Chairman Goldwater, in a reply to Crane

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